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Congress of the United States
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November 12, 2014

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary
The U.S. Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20350-1000

Dear Secretary Mabus and Administrator McCarthy:

I write to urge the U.S. Navy and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and local water districts to implement a comprehensive remediation plan to stop the migration of the contaminated groundwater plume emanating from the former Grumman Aerospace Corporation and U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Sites in Bethpage, New York.

The responsible parties have permitted the plume to grow since it was first discovered in 1976. Last week the Navy confirmed that the toxic plume has migrated as far south as the Hempstead Turnpike in Bethpage towards Bethpage Water District and Massapequa Water District public supply wells that serve 250,000 residents. TCE levels recorded in a 760 foot deep monitoring well just south of Hempstead Turnpike (TT-101D2 / VPB129) increased from 250 parts per billion (ppb) to 560 ppb in approximately 18 months. Even higher concentrations of 4600 ppb were found within 1800 feet of an active Bethpage public supply well. The drinking water standard is 5 ppb.

A comprehensive remediation plan should be a result of cooperation between the Navy, EPA, NYSDEC, and local water districts. The plan should include strategic plume containment to prevent continued contamination of Long Island's Sole Source Aquifer, installation of additional monitoring wells to better define the host spots and leading edge of the migrating plume, and implementation of a Project Management System with dates and milestones. Impacted water suppliers must be fully reimbursed for treatment systems to avoid forcing water districts to pass the cost to ratepayers.

The recently publicized information on the worsening groundwater quality conditions has greatly increased public concern and residents are demanding immediate and effective action to protect our vital drinking water supply. I am confident that the Navy, EPA, NYSDEC, and local

water districts can find common ground and protect Long Island's sole source aquifer once-and-for-all. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress